Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10076 151614Z ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PDIP, IN, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT ON KEWAL SINGH'S CALLS ON VICE PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY SECRETARY

REF: A. NEW DELHI 9924, B. NEW DELHI 9999

1. THE JULY 15 "TIMES OF INDIA" CARRIES A REPORT FROM ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, M.V. KAMATH, SAYING THAT PM DESAI'S JULY 13 LOK SABHA STATEMENT ON INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY (REF-TELS) WAS "WELL RECEIVED IN US ADMINISTRATION CIRCLES." KAM-ATH ALSO REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR KEWAL SINGH CALLED ON THE VICE PRESIDENT AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY. ACCORDING TO KAMATH, THE VICE PRESIDENT TOLD SINGH THAT THE "US ADMINISTRATION APPRECIATED THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S NUCLEAR POLICIES REITER-ATED BY THE PRIME MINISTER." DURING WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A "WARM AND CORDIAL" MEETING, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND SINGH ALSO DISCUSSED A RANGE OF BILATERAL ISSUES AND THE VICE PRESIDENT "EXPRESSED THE DESIRE OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE US ADMINISTRATION TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH INDIA." DURING THE CALL ON THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, WHICH KAMATH WROTE WAS "IN CONNECTION WITH THE LATTER'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO INDIA", THE DEPUTY SECRETARY "MADE IT KNOWN THAT HIS VISIT REFLECTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 10076 151614Z

THE DESIRE OF THE US LEADERSHIP AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL TO DEVELOP GOOD RELATIONS WITH INDIA THROUGH GREATER PERSONAL CONTACTS". KAMATH ALSO SAID THAT SINGH EXPRESSED THE GOI'S "APPRECIATION OF THE UNDERSTANDING SHOWN BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF INDIA'S POSITION REGARDING TARAPUR" AS WELL AS APPRECIATION FOR THE US STAND AT THE AID-INDIA CONSORTIUM MEETING CONCERNING INDIA'S SHARE OF IDA FUNDS.

2. NO OTHER PAPERS HAVE CARRIED THIS REPORT THUS FAR. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, KAMATH'S ARTICLE IS THE FIRST REFERENCE TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT WHICH HAS APPEARED IN THE INDIAN PRESS. HIS ACCOUNT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S CALLS IS PRESUMABLY BASED ON A DEBRIEFING BY KEWAL SINGH. GOHEEN

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Subject: PRESS REPORT ON KEWAL SINGH\'S CALLS ON VICE PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY SECRETARY

TAGS: PDIP, SOPN, IN, US, (DESAI, MORARJI), (SINGH, KEWAL), (KAMATH, M V)

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